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Date: July 27 2005

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: TRETJAK et al.

Group Art Unit: (not yet assigned)

Serial No.: 10/537,422

Examiner: (not yet assigned)

(Name of person faxing paper)

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PCT/FR03/003598

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For: CONTINUOUS ETHYL LACTATE PREPARATION METHOD

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the specification and claims as follows.

The amendments to the specification begin on page 2.

The amendments to the claims begin on page 3.